

7 May 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-6190

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your email dated 1 March 2019. You asked:

- *How many times in the years 2015, 2016 and 2018 were firearms presented at police officers?*
- *Did any of the incidents involved licensed firearm owners? If so, how many?*
- *How many were imitation firearms?*
- *How many times were police fired upon?*
- *How many police officers were injured in these incidents?*
- *How many members of the public were injured in these incidents?*
- *I'd like all of these broken down by year, please.*
- *How many times have police armed frontline staff in the past five years.*
- *When, where and why, for each arming?*
- *How many firearms does police have (broken down by pistols, bushrangers/rifles and any other firearms). I require a comparison to the number of firearms (broken down by type) police had in 2008.*

I assume you would also like data for 2017.

Between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2018, there have been 47 incidents where Police recorded an offence of using a firearm against law enforcement officer, using a firearm to resist arrest, or assault police with a firearm.

The incidents are shown by year below:

| Year | Incidents where firearms were presented at officers | And a real firearm was used | And Police officers were fired upon |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2015 | 12 | 11 | 6 |
| 2016 | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| 2017 | 12 | 12 | 4 |
| 2018 | 11 | 6 | 2 |
| Total | 47 | 38 | 15 |

In one of the incidents, in 2018, a person who had used a firearm had held a firearms licence at the time of the offence.

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In one of these incidents, in 2016, four police officers were physically injured by the firearms discharged by the alleged offenders.

No members of the public were injured as a result of the alleged offenders discharging firearms at the Police officers (however, in some instances other offences committed during the same time resulted in injuries).

Records in relation to general arming order authorised by district commanders are not held by New Zealand Police. Officers can arm themselves whenever they believe the risk is great enough to justify the arming of individual officers.

I assume you want to know about operational or 'live' firearms. New Zealand Police currently has 2,582 M4 Rifles, 2,809 Glock Pistols, and 180 miscellaneous other firearms. These figures incorporate all areas of Police, such as General Duties Branch, Armed Offenders Squad, Special Tactics Group, and others. A comparison to 2008 cannot be provided as that data was held on a different database and it cannot be correlated to the current one.

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Yours sincerely



Mike McIlraith
Acting Superintendent
Arms Act Service Delivery Group